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Department of Geography
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PhD Studentship, Department of Geography and Program in Planning, University of Toronto

Project Title: Implications of Infrastructure Public-Private Partnerships

Principle Investigator: Professor Matti Siemiatycki, University of Toronto

Project collaborator: Professor Bent Flyvbjerg, BT Centre for Major Programme Management, Oxford University

Funding: The project is funded by a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council standard grant

PhD Studentship: comprises a funding package for living expenses (a combination of scholarships, research assistantships and teaching assistantships) plus tuition.

The student will be based at the Department of Geography and Program in Planning at the University of Toronto, and supervised by Professor Matti Siemiatycki. The student will also have ample opportunities to participate in research initiatives carried out by Professor Bent Flyvbjerg at Oxford University.

The Project

Around the world, public-private partnerships have gained increasing popularity to deliver large-scale infrastructure projects such as roads, bridges, waste and water treatment facilities, schools and hospitals. This research project has four main objectives: 1) to map the global geography of public-private partnerships; 2) to understand the globalized networks of firms, labour and governments that together produce public-private partnerships; 3) to measure whether projects delivered through public-private partnerships succeed in controlling cost overruns and revenue shortfalls that are common on large infrastructure projects; 4) to gauge how public-private partnerships impact on the meaningfulness of community consultation and involvement in decision making, the social and environmental distribution of project benefits, and the long-term durability of the partnership relationships.

Candidate Qualifications

The studentship will suit students with a background in planning, economic geography, or a related field. Students should have knowledge of the application of public-private partnerships, developed ideally through either past academic research or professional work experience in the infrastructure sector. Most importantly, students should demonstrate the ability to carry out research at the highest level, including exceptional data collection and analysis skills. Expertise in GIS, social science statistics, and database management software would be a plus.

Application Deadline: January 14th, 2011

Inquiries: Perspective applicants should contact Professor Matti Siemiatycki at Siemiatycki@geog.utoronto.ca. Please include a CV and brief covering letter.